Withdrawal of subsidies

1118. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has recommended the withdrawal of all subsidies presently operational in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Planning Commission had made this proposal with the Eleventh Plan in mind;

(c) the reasons for this major proposal;

(d) whether any discussion was held with the stake-holders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Global Hunger Index

1119. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the latest Global Hunger Index 2007 from International Food Policy Research Institute, India is considered second fastest growing economy in the world but it still has a long way to go in cradicating hunger where it is ranked at 94th position;

(b) whether it is lagging behind out of the list of 118 countries in spite of improving its score of 25.03 on the index compared to 33.73 in 1990;

(c) if so, to what extent Government has examined these reports; and

(d) the steps Union Government proposes to take to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) According to the latest Global Hunger Index 2007, India is ranked 94 out of 118 countries and has improved its index score from 33.73 in 1990 to 25.03 in 2007. In terms of Global Hunger Index Progress Indicators (GHI-P) 2007, India has made progress and is ranked 33 out of 91 countries with a GHI-P score of 0.496.

Several schemes *viz.* Mid-day Meal Scheme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Targeted Public Distribution System, etc. are being implemented in collaboration with the State Governments in order to eradicate hunger and poverty. The Government has also been implementing a number of programmes to improve the nutrition status of the people. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan aims at universalizing Integrated Child Development Services. The Approach Paper has also included reduction of malnutrition among children of the age group 0-3 years to half its present level, reduction of infant mortality rate to 28 per 1000 live births, and reduction of anaemia among women and girls by 50%, among the selected monitorable socio-economic targets.